THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total quantity of shrimps exported during the last three years and the corresponding value realised therefrom during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Quantity (MT)	Vaule (Rs. Crores)	Value (US $ Mln.)
1998-99	102484	Rs. 3344.91	800.22
1997-98	101318	Rs. 3140.56	866.37
1996-97	105426	Rs. 2701.78	755.74

(b) The appropriate projection is to export 113220 MT and 119000 MT of shrimp from India during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Following are some of the steps taken by the Government for tackling the problems faced by the shrimp exporters:—

(i) India approached Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to establish a Panel against US decision to apply Section 609 of their Public Law

Export of Shrimp

558. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of shrimps exported during last three years and the value thereof;

(b) the projection made for next two years;

(c) whether Government are aware of the problems of shrimp exporters;

(d) if so, the steps taken to help the shrimp exporters; and

(e) the details regarding the names of the shrimp exporters and total quantity of shrimps exported by each of these exporters during the last three years?

101—162 which implied that shrimp harvested in a manner which adversely affects sea turtles may not be imported into the USA. Consequently, the Government permitted MPEDA to countersign declarations given by the exporters to the effect that the shrimps being exported have been sourced either from aquaculture or harvested by non mechanical net retrieval ways. Meanwhile, the DSB adopted the panel and Appellate Body Reports on 6th November, 1998 consisting of the finding that Section 609 was provisionally justified under Article XX of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 observing that this measure of US has been applied in a manner which constitutes an arbitrary and unjustifiable discrimination between the members of the WTO. Subsequently, the 13 months time given to US for implementing the rulings and recommendations of he DSB will be expiring on 6th December, 1999. Meanwhile, the US has revised its guidelines for implementing Section 609 and has also agrreed to consider credible alternate programmes other than the use of TEDs.

(ii) In order to detect and check the occurrence of disease in the shrimps MPEDA purchased PCR machines and seven such machines have been distributed to field centres viz. Kakinada, Vijayawada, Nellore, Thanjavur, Bhuvaneswar, Karwar and Alibag. MPEDA also imported Dot Blat Kits for detection of white spot virus infection in the shrimp seeds which have been distributed to the field offices. A number of MPEDA officers have been trained for operating PCR machines as well as Dot Blot Kits. MPEDA also purchased two comparatively larger versions of PCR machines for detection of disease.

(iii) The Government has also moved Aquaculture Bill, 1998, to provide for inter-alia an amendment to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 1991, to the effect that aquaculture is not a prohibited activity.

(e) The details regarding the name of the shrimp exporters and the quantum of shrimp exported by each of them during the last three years are given in the Annexure.

[*See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 20*].